## Patent Claims

- A method for removing a layer area (7, 10) of a 1. in which acid is component (1),used, 5 characterized in that the component (1) is firstly treated in at least one salt bath (13), and then, in a further method step, is treated at least once with at least a first acid or at least a first acid mixture, the component (1) being treated with a complex-forming agent in an intermediate or 10 final step.
- 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and/or potassium hydroxide (KOH) is used for the salt bath (13).
  - 3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide in a mixture ratio of 1 to 1 (% by volume) is used for the salt bath (13).
  - 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that nitric acid ( $HNO_3$ ) or phosphoric acid ( $H_3PO_4$ ) or a

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mixture thereof is used as acid for the at least first acid bath (13).

- 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that two different acid baths (13) are used.
  - 6. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that hydrochloric acid (HCl) is used as acid for the second acid bath (13).

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7. The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that first of all nitric acid (HNO $_3$ ) or phosphoric acid (H $_3$ PO $_4$ ) or a mixture thereof, and then hydrochloric acid (HCl) are used.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that an ultrasound probe (17) is used in the bath (13) to accelerate the method.

- 9. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that before the treatment of the component (1) in the salt bath (13) and/or after the treatment in the salt bath (13) and/or after the first acid treatment and/or after a further acid treatment, the component (1) having the layer area (7, 10) that is to be removed is sand-blasted, or flow grinding is carried out with the component (1).
- 10 10. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one oxygen donor is added to the salt bath.
- 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the at least one oxygen donor is an oxide.
  - 12. The method as claimed in claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the at least one oxygen donor is a metal oxide.

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13. The method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the metal oxide is sodium oxide  $(NaO_2)$ .

14. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the component (1) is watered and/or dried in at least one intermediate step.